AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A lockset, comprising:

a lock mechanism having an aperture;

an operator; and

a turn-button mounted in said operator <u>during assembly of said lockset</u>, said turn-

5 button including:

a head portion; and

a shaft extending from said head portion, said shaft having a leading helical end

portion that engages said aperture of said lock mechanism.

2. (Original) The lockset of claim 1, said leading helical end portion having a

plurality of leading helical surfaces that taper and twist from a transition line of said shaft

toward a tip end of said shaft.

3. (Original) The lockset of claim 2, wherein said plurality of leading helical surfaces

smoothly transition between adjacent helical surfaces.

4. (Previously presented) A turn-button for a lockset, comprising:

a head portion; and

a shaft extending from said head portion, said shaft having a leading helical end tip.

5. (Previously presented) The turn-button of claim 4, said leading helical end tip having a plurality of leading helical surfaces that taper and twist from a transition line of said shaft toward a tip end of said shaft.

6. (Original) The turn-button of claim 5, wherein said plurality of leading helical surfaces smoothly transition between adjacent helical surfaces.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 1, said lock mechanism including a rotatable actuator having said aperture, wherein once said leading helical end portion engages said aperture, a rotation of said turn-button effects a corresponding rotation of said rotatable actuator of said lock mechanism.

9. (Previously amended) A lockset comprising:

a lock mechanism including an actuator having an aperture;

an operator;

a turn-button mounted in said operator, said turn-button including a shaft; and

means for facilitating self-alignment of said shaft of said turn-button with said aperture of said lock mechanism as said shaft of said turn-button is inserted into said aperture of said lock mechanism, said means including a plurality of leading helical surfaces that taper and twist from a transition line of said shaft toward a tip end of said shaft.

10. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 9, wherein said plurality of leading helical surfaces smoothly transition between adjacent helical surfaces.

11. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 1, wherein said operator is one of a door knob and a door lever, said shaft of said turn-button extending from said head portion through said one of said door knob and said door lever to engage said aperture of said lock mechanism.

12. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 1, wherein a rotation of said turn-button effects a corresponding rotation of said aperture of said lock mechanism.

13. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 1, wherein said aperture of said lock mechanism has a substantially rectangular shape.

14. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 2, wherein a number of said plurality of leading helical surfaces is greater than two.

15. (Previously presented) The turn-button of claim 4, wherein a perimeter of an elongate portion of said shaft has a substantially rectangular shape.

16. (Previously presented) The turn-button of claim 5, wherein a number of said plurality of leading helical surfaces is greater than two.

17. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 9, wherein said operator is one of a door knob and a door lever, said shaft of said turn-button extending through said one of said door knob and said door lever to engage said aperture of said lock mechanism.

18. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 9, wherein said aperture of said lock mechanism has a substantially rectangular shape.

19. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 9, wherein a number of said plurality of leading helical surfaces is greater than two.

20. (Previously presented) The lockset of claim 1, wherein said leading helical end portion forms a plurality of side surfaces of said shaft.

21. (New) The lockset of claim 2, wherein said twist is about a half-turn rotation.